

Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, April 9, 2009 www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae CONTACT: Lauren Horwood PHONE: 916-554-2706 usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov

FAIRFIELD MEN CHARGED IN IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS MANUFACTURE

10-Month Prison Sentence in Similar but Unrelated Case

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a multiple-count indictment charging SERGIO PORTILLO-GUTIERREZ, aka Alejandro, 35, and GERARDO ALBARRAN-HERNANEZ, aka Arturo Sanchez-Mendoza, 30, both of Fairfield, Calif., with conspiracy; fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other documents; and possession of a document-making implement and an authentication feature. PORTILLO-GUTIERREZ and ALABARRAN-HERNANDEZ are scheduled to appear in court before United States Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd on April 14, 2009, and April 15, 2009, respectively.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Immigration and Custom Enforcement Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that between March 27, 2009 through March 30, 2009, PORTILLO-GUTIERREZ and ALBARRAN-HERNANDEZ conspired to manufacture identification documents, including Alien Registration Receipt cards (Form I-551s) and Social Security cards for profit. According to documents filed in court, they used third-party biographical information to make the counterfeit documents. PORTILLO-GUTIERREZ is charged with additional counts of making Alien Registration Receipt cards and Social Security cards.

If convicted, PORTILLO-GUTIERREZ and ALBARRAN-HERNANDEZ face a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. The actual sentences, however, are determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

In an unrelated case, GILBERTO GRENADOS IBANEZ, 38, also of Fairfield, was sentenced today to 10 months in prison by the United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. for similar criminal misconduct. IBANEZ was charged on October 29, 2009 with fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other documents; possession of five or more false identification documents and an authentication feature; and with possessing a document-making implement and authentication feature.